



# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 5, 2021, 10:30 A.M.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Our hope in this season of COVID-19 is that all who worship virtually feel welcome and a sense of God's love through Jesus Christ.

### FOR WORSHIP

*In this morning's Gospel lesson from Mark, Jesus attempts to escape from the crowds, but a Gentile woman of Syrophenician origin finds him and pleads for her demon-possessed daughter. Jesus tests the woman's faith by stating that he is first ministering to God's chosen people, Israel. The woman displays tenacious faith and again pleads for healing on behalf of her daughter. Jesus exercises his divine authority by declaring the demon has now left the girl, and the woman returns home to find her well. Returning from that region, Jesus astonishes the crowd when he heals a deaf man with a speech impediment. These signs point to Jesus as the only Son of God, whose invitation to join God's family through faith now extends to all people, and who by his Kingdom reign has come to end to all sickness, evil, and death.*

### PRELUDE

*The Lord Reigneth*  
*Romanza on an English Tune "Faith"*  
Janice Robison, Organist

Henry Kihlken  
Charles Callahan

### WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Robert Martin

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Keith Wiens

*L: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!*

**P: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

*L: The Lord watches over the strangers; the Lord upholds the orphan and the widow; but the way of the wicked God brings to ruin.*

**P: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!**

### \*HYMN 267

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

ROYAL OAK

#### Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful,  
the Lord God made them all.

3 The cold wind in the winter,  
the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden,  
God made them every one.  
(Refrain)

1 Each little flower that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colors;  
God made their tiny wings.  
(Refrain)

4 God gave us eyes to see them,  
and lips that we might tell  
how great is God Almighty,  
who has made all things well.  
(Refrain)

2 The purple-headed mountain,  
the river running by,  
the sunset, and the morning  
that brightens up the sky:  
(Refrain)

*In the presence of a holy God, we become aware of the ways we fall short of God's best hopes for us, and the ways we have hurt others. We turn to God in prayer, asking for forgiveness.*

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Liturgist Wiens

**God of life, you are the source of all goodness and the hope of our lives. Yet we confess to you that our understanding of you is small; our desire to do your will is often weak; and the gospel seed you have planted within us has yet to bear fruit. Have mercy on us, O God. Help us to lay down our guilt, our anger, our fear, our hardness of heart, and our weakness of intention. Make peace within us. Be with us and for us wherever life takes us, both this day and until we meet in glory. Amen.**

*We express gratitude that through God's grace and Christ's giving of himself on the cross we are forgiven and restored to God and one another.*

### \*DECLARATION OF PARDON

*L: Friends, believe the good news.*  
**P. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

\*Gloria Patri - 579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without  
end. Amen and Amen.

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Helen King

### ANTHEM

O Sing to the Lord a New Song  
Combined Chancel Choir and Bell Choir

HYFRYDOL/Lloyd Larsen

O Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things; / Come lift up your voice and sing!  
O shout to the Lord all the earth, break forth into jubilant praise; / Rejoice in his glory and grace.  
Let the sea resound, and all that is in it, let the rivers clap their hands; let the mountains sing for joy!  
My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation. I hear the sweet though far-off hymn, that  
hails a new creation.

No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging; since Christ is Lord of heav'n and  
earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing, it finds an echo in my soul; how can I  
keep from singing? (Text based on Psalm 98)

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Liturgist Wiens

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire  
of your love: grant us grace to hear your holy word now; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### SCRIPTURE Psalm 125 (page 572 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Wiens

Mark 7:24-37 (page 42, 43 in pew Bible)

Rev. Martin

L. This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

### SERMON

Your Story Matters

Rev. Robert Martin

## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Martin

Choral Response (the congregation is invited to join in singing): Hymnal #585 "Amen"

### THE OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Children of the Heavenly Father  
Janice Robison, Organist

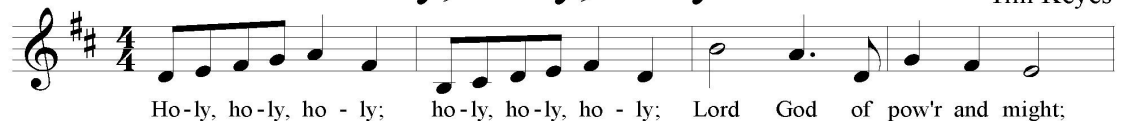
Robert Lau

### \*DOXOLOGY 592

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.

## Holy, Holy, Holy

Tim Keyes



On behalf of the  
congregation, the Pastor  
expresses the corporate  
prayers of the congregation.  
These prayers are for world,  
local and personal concerns.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**INVITATION**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*Minister: The Lord be with you.*

**People: And also with you.**

*Minister: Lift up your hearts.*

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

*Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PRAYER**

*Minister: It is truly right and our greatest joy.....who forever sing to the glory of your name:*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**All: Gracious God, may we who have received this sacrament live in the unity of your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth your gifts to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 439**

*In Christ There Is No East or West*

ST. PETER

In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.

whate'er your race may be.  
All children of the living God  
are surely kin to me.

2 In Christ shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord  
close-binding humankind.

4 In Christ now meet both east and west;  
in him meet south and north.  
All Christly souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.

3 Join hands, disciples of the faith,

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Choral Response (*the congregation is invited to join in singing*): *Hymnal #586 "Amen"*

**POSTLUDE**

*Hymne*  
Janice Robison, Organist

Flor Peeters

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

**Deacon of the Month - Nancy Hartley - a friend to phone in time of need**

740-677-3104 or angelcollector56@gmail.com

Ushers: Nancy Hartley and Harold Robison

**Church Office Closed**

**Monday, September 6th in observance of Labor Day**

**Women's Book Study**

**Resumes Friday, September 10th Noon**

Fellowship Hall or via Zoom

**Organ Recital**

**Sunday, September 12th following the Worship Service**

Janice Robison will play an organ recital immediately following the worship service on Sunday, September 12th, in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of 9/11. All are invited to stay for this thirty minute memorial recital honoring the victims of that terrible day and the heroic efforts of those who worked so tirelessly in the weeks and months following.

**Blessing of the Animals Service**

**September 18th, 11:00 a.m. - Stroud's Run Bulldog Shelter**

Everyone's pets, whether they be small or large, with feathers, fur, or fins, along with their families and friends, are invited to gather at the Bulldog Shelter at Stroud's Run on Saturday, September 18th, at 11:00 a.m., for a Blessing of the Animals celebration. This service witnesses to God's and First Presbyterian Church's love, care, and concern of creation. As mutual interdependence with God's creatures is recognized, the Church's witness of stewardship of creation is strengthened. For the harmony of Athens community, it is asked that all mobile pets be leashed or caged. If pets cannot be transported, stuffed animals or other reminders of your friend can be substituted.

**Backpack Tags and Blessing for Students of All Ages**

Going back to school always invites big feelings to come along with us, and those feelings can be different for everyone! Whether you're starting school for the first time, moving to a new school, staying at the same school, or returning to school in person after learning virtually, we can all feel happy, nervous, scared, curious, or many other emotions. Sometimes, we can even feel all these feelings at the same time, and that's okay. So that First Presbyterian Church students of all ages can know that the members of this church family are wishing them a wonderful school year, tags have been created for them to put on their backpacks with a simple message, "Be loved, be kind, be you." If the students or their parents bring their backpacks to the church office, Rev. Martin will bless them and offer a prayer for their upcoming year.

**Tags can also be arranged to be delivered to your home by calling the office.**

**Weekly Worship Service**

**Can be seen live on Sunday Morning**

*FPC's worship services can be found on YouTube channel here:*

*<https://www.youtube.com/user/athensfpc/search?query=sermon>.*

*You can access them directly on the FPC YouTube channel and on the church web site under Worship Archive.*

Minister: Rev. Robert E. Martin

Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart

Adm. Asst: Jane Baker

Handbell Director: Tyler Thress

Organist: Janice Robison

Choir Director: David Tadlock

Christian Education Directors: Richard and Joan Nease

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